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COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS ON THE TRANSPORT OF DANGEROUS GOODS
Sub-Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods
(Thirteenth session, Geneva, 7-17 July 1997, agenda item 3 (d))

DRAFT AMENDMENTS TO THE MODEL REGULATIONS

Restructuration of RID/ADR

Note by the secretariat

1. The Joint Meeting of the UN Economic Commission for Europe Working Party on the Transport of Dangerous Goods (WP.15) and of the RID Safety Committee (RID/ADR Joint Meeting) held its spring session in Bern from 17 to 21 March 1997. The main item on the agenda was the restructuring of Regulation concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Rail (RID) and European Agreement concerning the international carriage of dangerous goods by road (ADR) and the Sub-Committee may wish to take note or consider certain developments in that respect the report will be circulated under the symbol TRANS/WP.15/AC.1/68 and Addenda 1 to 3.

Table of contents

2. The Joint Meeting reconsidered the table of contents of the draft restructured RID/ADR, and agreed to adopt the same structure as for the Model Regulations. As a consequence to Table of contents of RID/ADR for Parts 1 to 6 will be nearly identical to that of the Model Regulations.

3. Further discussions on Part 1 will be necessary and additional sections will be needed for requirements specific to RID and ADR (such as derogations, special agreements, transitional measures, etc.).

4. In part 4, it has been decided to include a new chapter as follows:

"4.3 Use of containers or vehicles
4.3.1 Use of containers or vehicles for the carriage of packages
4.3.2 Use of containers or vehicles for the carriage in bulk
4.3.3 Stowage and mixed loading
4.3.4 Precautions before, during and after loading and unloading
4.3.5 Limitation of the quantites carried".

This chapter is likely to contain certain type of provisions such as those contained in Chapter 7.1 of the Model Regulation.

5. For ADR, the provisions corresponding to Parts 1 to 6, i.e. those which are relevant to multimodal transport, should be grouped in Annex A of ADR. The provisions specific to road transport should be grouped in Annex B.

Part 2: classification

6. The provisions of the UN Model Regulations have been supplemented in order to facilitate classification (Explanation of principles of classification, classification of solutions and mixtures not mentioned by name, rationalized grouping of substances within each class and assignment of a classification code, list of collective entries in each class/division).

Dangerous Goods List

7. The format of the dangerous goods list has been brought in line with that of the UN Model Regulations.

8. A general heading "classification" has been added above columns (1) to (4).

9. Column (3) has been divided in columns 3 (a) (class) and 3 (b) (Code corresponding to the RID/ADR classification grouping system).

10. It has been decided to replace the heading "Subsdiary Risk" in column (5) by the heading "Label(s)". The Joint Meeting considered that it would be more user friendly to indicate in that column all labels to be affixed instead of the subsidiary risk, as the labels reflect the main risk and the subsidiary risk.

11. Additional columns have been added for the following purposes:

RID/ADR (12): Use of vehicles/containers
RID/ADR (13): Hazard identification number ("Kember Code")
ADR only (14): Vehicle requirements
ADR only (15): Exemption quantities
ADR only (16): Emergency Equipment, Marking, Placarding
ADR only (17): Service requirements.

12. A reference to the relevant chapter or section will also be included in the heading of each column (For example in column (8) (Packing Instructions), the reference "(See 4.1)" should be added).

Definition of packing groups

13. To clarify the concept that packing groups are group of substances and not groups of packagings (which is not clear especially in the French text where one single word "emballage" is used for the words "packing" and "packagings"), the Joint Meeting proposes the following change to paragraph 2.0.1.3 of the Model Regulation.

"2.0.1.3 For packing purposes, certain substances or articles may be assigned to packing groups in accordance with their degree of danger. The packing groups have the following meanings:

Packing Group I : Highly dangerous substances or articles
Packing Group II: Dangerous substances or articles
Packing Group III: Slightly dangerous substances or articles."